

REMARKS

The issues outstanding in the Office Action mailed May 5, 2006, are the requirement for restriction, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and 103, and the claim objection. Reconsideration of these issues and the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Election/Restriction

Applicants' election of group I is confirmed. The non-elected subject matter has been cancelled, although it is noted that claim 1 has been narrowed in order to recite that the particular method of "regulating the appearance of skin" is one of inhibiting or decreasing the expression or function of a matrix metalloprotease, or inhibiting or decreasing oxidative stress induced by free iron and copper.

Objections To Claims

Claim 1 has been objected to in view of typographical errors. The Examiner is thanked for pointing out these errors, which have been corrected. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. It is submitted that a clarifying amendment to claim 1, supported at page 10 of the specification, obviates this rejection. It is obvious that the unit of molecular weight would be Daltons, as is well understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

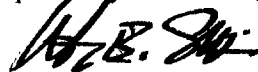
Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Ghosal (U.S. Patent 6,124,268). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Ghosal disclose the use of various compounds solely for "protection of skin against the damaging effects of the sun." In particular, the Patentees teach that their materials provide "protection against UV-induced erythema" (i.e., redness, rash, sunburn). As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the patent does *not* suggest inhibiting or decreasing the expression or function of a matrix metalloprotease in the skin, nor does the patent teach or suggest inhibiting or decreasing oxidative stress induced by free iron and copper in the skin. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, she is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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